

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Ferrari: \$50,000 Grant Okayed for New-Gate Prison Restoration Project



State funding in the amount of \$50,000 has been authorized to help fund restoration work at Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine in East Granby, state Representative Richard F. Ferrari, R-62nd District, said today.

The funding was included in a bond authorization measure (Senate Bill 2003) that received final legislative approval at a Connecticut General Assembly special session Wednesday, June 28th, said Representative Ferrari, who voted for the legislation.

“Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine is one of Connecticut’s most important historic sites. It was a working copper mine during the colonial period and was used to house prisoners during the American Revolution. It became the state prison in 1790. It was closed as a prison in 1827 and has been a tourist attraction since the 1860’s,” Representative Ferrari said.

“Old New-Gate Prison has been a major economic asset for East Granby and other towns in the region as well,” Representative Ferrari said. “Tourists from throughout Connecticut and elsewhere in New England visit Old New-Gate Prison every year, patronize local restaurants and other businesses and stay at area hotels. The funding we approved for the restoration project will preserve and protect an important part of Connecticut’s past and make Old New-Gate Prison more attractive and visitor-friendly than ever.”

The restoration project at Old New-Gate Prison, a National Historic Landmark operated by the State of Connecticut, includes:

- The renovation of Viets Tavern. The tavern is located across the street from Old New-Gate Prison and was at the location before the site became a prison in 1773. The Viets property is owned by the Connecticut Historic Commission and consists of six buildings. When the restoration work is complete, the tavern will become part of the visitor experience at Old New-Gate Prison.
- Stabilizing walls in the cellblock area.
- Installing state of the art lighting, handrails, non-skid surfaces, and a ventilation system in the mine.
- Stabilization and roof replacement work on two cottages at the site.
- Putting a new wood shingle roof on the guardhouse.